Appln No. 09/885,307
Amdt date September 14, 2006
Reply to Office action of June 14, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) In a communication network including a user station, a method for creating a customized audio program comprising:

automatically processing audio signals in each of a plurality of audio pieces and generating audio characteristic information in real time with a broadcast of the audio pieces;

retrieving the audio characteristic information associated with the plurality of audio pieces;

receiving user audio preference information;

comparing the audio characteristic information with the user audio preference information for identifying selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces;

selectively tuning to a plurality of audio channels for receiving the selected ones of [[a]] the plurality of audio pieces delivered over the plurality of audio channels, the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces being identified based on the user audio preference information;

temporarily storing the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces in a buffer; and

outputting the temporarily stored audio pieces responsive to a detected playback condition.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[56]] 1, wherein the audio characteristic information indicates subject matter content for each of the plurality of audio pieces.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include music.

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4.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of
audio pieces include voice.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of
audio pieces include an advertisement.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the user audio
preference information is associated with a particular theme, the method further comprising:
        receiving a user selection of the particular theme; and
        identifying the user preference information associated with the particular theme.

7-8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[56]] 1, wherein the plurality of
audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a radio broadcast
network.

10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[56]] 1, wherein the plurality of
audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a computer network.

12-23. (Canceled)

24.   (Currently Amended) A system for creating a customized audio program
comprising:

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means for automatically processing audio signals in each of a plurality of audio pieces and generating audio characteristic information in real time with a broadcast of the audio pieces;

means for retrieving the audio characteristic information associated with the plurality of audio pieces;

means for receiving user audio preferences information;

means for comparing the audio characteristic information with the user audio preference information for identifying selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces;

means for selectively tuning to a plurality of audio channels for receiving the selected ones of [[a]] the plurality of audio pieces delivered over the plurality of audio channels, the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces being identified based on the user audio preference information; and

means for temporarily storing the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces in a buffer; and

means for outputting the temporarily stored audio pieces responsive to a detected playback condition.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[68]] 24, wherein the audio characteristic information indicates subject matter content for each of the plurality of audio pieces.

26. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include music.

27. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include voice.

28. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include an advertisement.

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29.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 24, wherein the user audio preference information is associated with a particular theme, the system further comprising means for receiving a user selection of the particular theme.

30-31. (Canceled)

32.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[68]] 24, wherein the plurality of audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a radio broadcast network.

33.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[68]] 24, wherein the plurality of audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a computer network.

34-56. (Canceled)

57.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[56]] 1, wherein the audio characteristic information for each of the plurality of audio pieces is represented as an audio vector, the audio vector storing at least one value representing the extent of a particular audio characteristic present in the audio piece.

58.   (Canceled)

59.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[56]] 1 further comprising:
    receiving the audio characteristic information from a transmitting source in advance of the receipt of the plurality of audio pieces.

60.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[56]] 1 further comprising:

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receiving the audio characteristic information from a transmitting source concurrently with the audio pieces.

61.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

dynamically generating an audio program based on the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces; and

playing the plurality of audio pieces based on the generated audio program.

62.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 61, wherein the plurality of audio pieces are played according to customized playback times.

63.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of audio pieces are broadcast over the plurality of audio channels based on their broadcast times.

64.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The method of claim 1~~ In a communication network including a user station, a method for creating a customized audio program comprising:

receiving user audio preference information;

selectively tuning to a plurality of audio channels for receiving selected ones of a plurality of audio pieces delivered over the plurality of audio channels, the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces being identified based on the user audio preference information;

temporarily storing the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces in a buffer; and

outputting the temporarily stored audio pieces responsive to a detected playback condition, wherein the playback condition is powering-on of the user station.

65.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the playback condition if tuning to a particular audio channel.

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66.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the playback condition is a playback time.

67.   (Canceled)

68.   (Currently Amended) A user station comprising:
an input for receiving user audio preference information;
an audio tuner;
a preference tuner coupled to the audio tuner, the preference tuner for automatically processing audio signals in each of a plurality of audio pieces and generating audio characteristic information in real time with a broadcast of the audio pieces, the preference tuner retrieving the audio characteristic information associated with the plurality of audio pieces, comparing the audio characteristic information with the user audio preference information for identifying selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces, the preference tuner further causing the audio tuner to selectively tune to a plurality of audio channels for receiving the selected ones of [[a]] the plurality of audio pieces, the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces being identified based on the user audio preference information;
a buffer for temporarily storing the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces;
a sequencer coupled to the buffer for controlling playback of the temporarily stored audio pieces; and
an output for playing the temporarily stored audio pieces.

69.   (Canceled)

70.   (Currently Amended) The user station of claim [[69]] 68, wherein the audio characteristic information for each of the plurality of audio pieces is represented as an audio vector, the audio vector storing at least one value representing the extent of a particular audio characteristic present in the audio piece.

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71.   (Canceled)

72.   (Currently Amended) The user station of claim [[69]] 68 further comprising:

means for receiving the audio characteristic information from a transmitting source in advance of the receipt of the plurality of audio pieces.

73.   (Currently Amended) The user station of claim [[69]] 68 further comprising:

means for receiving the audio characteristic information from a transmitting source concurrently with the audio pieces.

74.   (Previously Presented)   The user station of claim 68, wherein the sequencer dynamically generates an audio program based on the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces.

75.   (Previously Presented)   The user station of claim 74, wherein the dynamically generated audio program includes customized playback times.

76.   (Previously Presented)   The user station of claim 68, wherein the plurality of audio pieces are broadcast over the plurality of audio channels based on their broadcast times.

77.   (Previously Presented)   The user station of claim 68, wherein the sequencer detects a playback condition and causes the output to play the temporarily stored audio pieces responsive to the detected playback condition.

78.   (Currently Amended) The user station of claim 77 A user station comprising:

an input for receiving user audio preference information;

an audio tuner;

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a preference tuner coupled to the audio tuner, the preference tuner for causing the audio tuner to selectively tune to a plurality of audio channels for receiving selected ones of a plurality of audio pieces, the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces being identified based on the user audio preference information;

a buffer for temporarily storing the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces;

a sequencer coupled to the buffer for controlling playback of the temporarily stored audio pieces; and

an output for playing the temporarily stored audio pieces, wherein the playback condition is powering-on of the user station.

79.   (Previously Presented)   The user station of claim 77, wherein the playback condition if tuning to a particular audio channel.

80.   (Previously Presented)   The user station of claim 77, wherein the playback condition is a playback time.

81.   (New) The user station of claim 68, wherein the audio characteristic information indicates subject matter content for each of the plurality of audio pieces.

82.   (New) The user station of claim 68, wherein the plurality of audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a radio broadcast network.

83.   (New) The user station of claim 68, wherein the plurality of audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a computer network.

84.   (New) A system for creating a customized audio program comprising:
means for receiving user audio preferences information;

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means for selectively tuning to a plurality of audio channels for receiving selected ones of a plurality of audio pieces delivered over the plurality of audio channels, the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces being identified based on the user audio preference information;

means for temporarily storing the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces in a buffer; and

means for outputting the temporarily stored audio pieces responsive to a detected playback condition, wherein the playback condition is powering-on of an associated user station.

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